September 26, 2015

(b) (6)
Location Code: GKMTW28
(b) (6)
Durango, CO 81301

Dear (b) (6),

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is aware that you have raised concerns regarding potential impacts to your property related to the Gold King Mine release. We want to assure you that we remain aware of your concerns.

This letter provides the results for the water samples collected from your private water well and a sample collected from the (b) (6) Ditch. The water sample(s) were submitted to, and analyzed by, a private certified laboratory for the metals that could have been present in water from the Gold King Mine release.

The test results for your well water were compared to the National Drinking Water Standards, otherwise known as the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). The results of the analysis are provided in the enclosed table. Though these standards are intended for the evaluation of public water systems and therefore, do not apply to private domestic water wells such as yours, we have included the enclosed table so that you may compare the results with the Drinking Water Standards**. The metals described were present in your groundwater sample(s), above the EPA's Primary Drinking Water MCLs prior to filtration.**

Your post filtration results at your kitchen tap, post RO filtration indicate your drinking water DOES NOT EXCEED EPA's Primary Drinking Water MCLs and is suitable for consumption. We therefore recommend you follow the manufacturer's recommendations for maintaining your filtration system in order to preserve the safety of your drinking water.

The concentration of antimony in your well was above the MCL of 6 µg/L. Antimony is a metal found in natural deposits that may enter groundwater drinking sources through erosion of natural deposits. It is used as a flame retardant and is found in petroleum refinery discharge, batteries, pigments, and ceramics/glass. Some people who drink water containing antimony well in excess of the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for many years could experience increases in blood

cholesterol and decreases in blood sugar. Additional information on arsenic in drinking water is available on the EPA website at this location: http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/basicinformation/antimony.cfm.

The concentration of lead in your well water was above the MCL of 15 µg/L. Ingestion of water containing lead in excess of the MCL can cause health issues. Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure. Lead in well water may be due to lead-based plumbing or erosion of natural mineral deposits. Additional information on lead in drinking water is available on the EPA website at this location: http:/water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/basicinformation/lead.cfm.

The sample from the (b) (6) Ditch was submitted to a private certified laboratory to be analyzed for total metals. The analysis included metals that could potentially be present in sediment deposited as a result of the release from the Gold King Mine incident on August 5, 2015. Sediment concentrations from the ditch are below recreational screening levels, which are shown as RBC (risk based concentrations) on the enclosed results (Sample ID: GKMSE29).

EPA has worked closely with the San Juan Basin Health Department and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to evaluate the conditions in the Animas River following the incident. Surface water and sediment samples collected throughout the watershed have demonstrated the river has returned to pre-event conditions. Data received from samples collected from other properties in the area have met risk-based screening levels for recreational use.

In the interim, if you have any questions regarding this matter please contact Cynthia Peterson, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at (303) 312-6879.

Sincerely,

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8

Enclosure